Harnessing the Blue Economy for Eastern Africa's development

Blue Economy and Ocean Governance Workshop

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Daya Bragante, UNECA/SRO-EA

UNECA Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa

- One of the 5 SROs of UNECA. Based in Kigali, Rwanda.

- Covers 14 member States.

- Operational arm in Eastern Africa: provides policy advisory services to countries, Regional economic Communities (RECs), Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and other development actors.

- Comprising of a Sub-Regional Data Centre (SRDC) tasked with data collection and analysis (country profiles) and a Cluster on Sub-Regional Initiatives (CSRI) facilitating the implementation of flagship sustainable development initiatives within the context of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism.

- Support regional integration and contribute to socio-economic transformation in Eastern Africa.

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14 member States covered by SRO-EA (orange)

Background to the Blue Economy Initiative

- Relevance of the blue economy to regional development: landlocked, coastal and island states are interconnected through infrastructure networks; trade linkages; strategic partnerships (corridors' management).

- The Western Indian Ocean region: a very significant global and geopolitical gateway (in terms of maritime trade & security; untapped mineral reserves & energy potential ; vulnerability of marine resources).

- 19th Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (2-5 March 2015, Madagascar).

Outputs of the 19th ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- **Antananarivo Communiqué (rationale & definition)**:
  - The Blue Economy can play a vital role in sustaining robust rates of economic growth in Eastern Africa (real GDP grew at 6.6% from 2009 to 2014).
  - Key productive sectors are fisheries & aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, energy and mining; and synergies/trade-offs.
  - **The BE covers all water bodies including lakes and rivers in addition to seas and the coast.**

Outputs of the 19th ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- **Antananarivo Communiqué (fundamentals)** :
  - Building on existing relevant frameworks such as the Law of the sea, the AU 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy, etc.
  - Key issue: some countries are yet to establish their exclusive economic zones and their continental shelves to their full potential under international law, including through maritime boundary delimitations to fully harness resource development opportunities. The High Seas are open to all states (landlocked, coastal, island states).
  - Recognizing the need to balance economic interests with adherence to the highest environmental and social considerations as encapsulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document (The Future We Want).

Outputs of the 19th ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- **Antananarivo Communiqué (actions)**:
  - Embracing regional cooperation and integration to achieve and maintain peace and security.
  - Consideration of country characteristics are essential : island states can be 'sea-locked' and face related challenges.
  - Urging member States to mainstream the Blue economy into their national and regional development plans.
  - Need to build/strengthen R&D, country databases and centres of excellence in such areas as oceanographic mapping, etc.

Outcomes of the 19th ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)
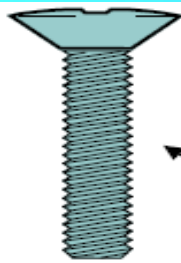
- **Antananarivo Communiqué (actions)**:
  - Encouraging member States to coordinate their actions to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing through information sharing, joint monitoring, control, enforcement.
  - Enhance safety in maritime transport, ports competitiveness, and improve development corridors linking landlocked, coastal and island states including with the rest of the world.
  - Important to increase Eastern African ownership of maritime fleets (for greater influence on maritime trade and transport).
  - Develop consistent, transparent 'blue labels' (products derived from the BE).
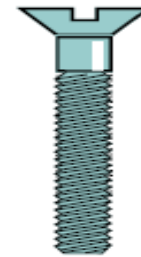
Outcomes of the 19ᵗʰ ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- **Background study on the Blue Economy**:
  - **Developed for the 19ᵗʰ ICE. Flagship report to be published in English and French by end of 2015.**
  - **Chapter 1: A macroeconomic snapshot of Eastern Africa; Chapter 2: Climate change and sustainable natural resource management; Chapter 3: Role of geopolitics; Chapter 4: Maritime routes and transport; Chapter 5: Deep sea mining and energy development; Chapter 6: Fisheries and aquaculture: trends, opportunities and challenges; Chapter 7: Sustainable Tourism Management; Chapter 8: Enabling environment to anchor the blue economy: policy frameworks, partnerships and regional cooperation.**

Essential nuts and bolts to be tightened by the Blue Economy

Through Sustainable Natural Resource Management on land and sea (based on partners' initiatives)

EXAMINE APPLICABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT OF GREEN ECONOMY PRINCIPLES AS A BASIS FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY

TO ADDRES SECURITY CHALLENGES: sustain environmental and ecosystem security, resource security, peace and stability

BLUE ECONOMY AS AN APPROACH AND TOOL

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMEN

STRENGTHEN LINKAGES BETWEEN ISLAND STATES, COASTAL AND LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES

TO ADDRESS KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH GAPS: exchange of success stories and inter-country cooperation

Sustainable Growth from productive sectors

Through Regulatory and Collaboration Frameworks (Law of the Sea, RECs/IGOs programmes, 2050 AIM-Strategy, SRCM, etc.) and mainstreaming of BE in policy making

Enhanced regional trade and integration

Outputs of the 19ᵗʰ ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- <u>KEY PRINCIPLES FOR THE BLUE ECONOMY</u>:
  - Achieving and maintaining peace and security is paramount.
  - The Blue Economy has the potential to be a powerful tool to create jobs and alleviate poverty.
  - Technological innovations should shape growth of the Blue Economy.
  - Blue Economy initiatives should build on existing regional and national initiatives, for example the Nairobi Convention and the AU 2050 African Integrated Maritime Strategy.
  - Local level grass-root communities should be at the heart of Blue Economy growth.
  - Enhanced knowledge is essential in order to better exploit opportunities within the Blue Economy.
  - Protection, conservation, preservation and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity must be center staged.
  - Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation is critical and needs to be included in any Blue Economy framework.
  - Harmonized development of the various sectors of the Blue Economy must be prioritised in order to solve existing and potential conflicts within and between sectors.

Outputs of the 19th ICE (conclusions and recommendations of the meeting)

- **Blue Economy Policy Handbook for Eastern Africa**:
  - To be finalized through a Book Sprint exercise (September 2015) involving several key partners and published in English and French by end of 2015.
  - Containing a step-by-step guide on how to mainstream the Blue Economy into national policies, laws, regulations and practices.
  - Aimed to help policy makers to develop and implement national and regional Blue Economy strategies (combining an integrated approach of institutional and policy frameworks related to Blue Economy with spatial development planning and building (as an ex.) on the IOC ISLANDS Programme, focusing on the use of System Dynamics Modeling for Integrated Development Planning in the WIO Islands).
  - M&E guidelines for BE strategies and action programmes.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

For more information

dbrgante@uneca.org